



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 411

February Session, 2006

Substitute Senate Bill No. 143

Senate, April 6, 2006

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HANDLEY of the 4th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) There is established an
2 advisory council to monitor the activities of the Board of Education
3 and Services for the Blind in carrying out its mission and statutorily
4 prescribed duties to provide quality educational and rehabilitative
5 services to all persons in the state who are legally blind or deaf-blind
6 and to all children in the state who are visually impaired.

7 (b) The council shall consist of the following members:

8 (1) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
9 who is a person with expertise in special education;

10 (2) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, who
11 is a representative of a blind consumer group;

12 (3) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of

13 Representatives, who is an adult with blindness, who has received
14 services from the Board of Education and Services for the Blind;

15 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is the
16 parent of a child receiving services from the Board of Education and
17 Services for the Blind;

18 (5) Two appointed by the Governor; and

19 (6) The president of the Connecticut Institute for the Blind, or the
20 president's designee.

21 (c) Any member of the council appointed under subsection (b) of
22 this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

23 (d) All appointments to the council shall be made not later than
24 November 1, 2006.

25 (e) The Governor shall schedule the first meeting of the council,
26 which shall be held not later than January 1, 2007. The chairperson of
27 the council shall be elected from among the members of the council at
28 the first meeting of the council. The council shall meet at least
29 quarterly at such times and places as the chairperson designates and
30 may meet at any other time upon the call of its chairperson or at the
31 request of two members. Any appointed member who, without good
32 cause, fails to attend three consecutive council meetings or fifty per
33 cent of all meetings held in a calendar year shall be deemed to have
34 resigned. A majority of the members appointed to the council shall
35 constitute a quorum.

36 (f) The council shall monitor the activities of the Board of Education
37 and Services for the Blind regarding the agency's compliance with the
38 benchmarks and recommendations set by the monitoring council
39 established pursuant to section 3 of public act 03-217 and offer
40 recommended adjustments to the benchmarks when deemed
41 necessary.

42 (g) Not later than February 15, 2008, and annually thereafter until its

43 termination as provided in this subsection, the council shall submit a
44 report on its activities, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-
45 4a of the general statutes, to the Governor and the joint standing
46 committees of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
47 relating to human services, education and appropriations and the
48 budgets of state agencies and the Office of Policy and Management.
49 The council shall continue to meet as provided in this section until
50 such time as the majority of council members determine that the Board
51 of Education and Services for the Blind is in compliance with the
52 benchmarks set by the monitoring council established pursuant to
53 section 3 of public act 03-217. At such time the council shall submit a
54 final report on its activities in accordance with the provisions of this
55 subsection.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	October 1, 2006	New section
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HS *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Board of Education & Services for the Blind	GF - None	None	None
Legislative Management	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes an advisory council to monitor the activities of the Board of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB) in particular the agency's compliance with the benchmarks and recommendations set by the previous monitoring council (established in PA 03-217 and terminated in January 2006). It is anticipated that BESB will not incur additional costs associated with the council. To the extent legislators are appointed to the advisory council, Legislative Management may incur minimal costs for legislator mileage reimbursement (currently 44.5 cents per mile). These costs are budgeted as part of the normal resources of the agency.

The Out Years

There is no fiscal impact anticipated in the out years.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 143

AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 14 Nay 3 (03/21/2006)